

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

## **Policy Council Minutes**

**March 24, 2004**

### **Members/Representatives Present:**

- Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Sandra Baxter, County Counsel
- Cathy Cimbalo, Department of Children's Services
- Bruce Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender
- Jim Felten, Department of Public Health
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Dr. Gerald Greene, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Andrew Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- Warren Nobles, Sheriff's Department
- Stacy Iverson, First 5 San Bernardino
- Rudy Lopez, Department of Behavioral Health
- Charles Adams, Community Action Partnership
- Mike Stodelle, Sheriff's Department
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Ed Rowe, Children's Network
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
- Honorable Rex Victor
- Stephen Martinez, HSS Legislation and Research
- Julian Weaver, County Schools
- Bernadette Pinchback, County Schools
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Honorable Rex Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

### **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Honorable Rex Victor welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

### **2.0 Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the amended agenda as read.

### **3.0 Approval of February Minutes**

The February 25, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

### **4.0 Information Items**

#### **4.1 Children's Fund Report**

- The Children's Fund Board has agreed to spend \$35,000 towards the room for families at the new Juvenile Dependency Court.
- A women's group that painted murals at the Children's Assessment Center have volunteered to paint some murals on the wall in the room at the new Juvenile Dependency Court free of charge.
- They are funding some local organizations such as Community Against Drugs.
- They are also funding some of the work done by the Perinatal Leadership Team and Dr. Chasnoff such as; visits from Dr. Chasnoff and Rich McGourty and a field trip to Fresno to see the model facility.
- Staff is busy moving full steam ahead with the annual Duck Race to be held at Pharaoh's Lost Kingdom on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.
- Rebecca encouraged everyone to get out there and get those ducks adopted.

#### **4.2 School Linked Services**

- It was determined from the goals set by the Policy Council to improve outcomes for children was to identify gaps and duplications of services to children.
- A subcommittee was formed from various county agencies to research resources and develop a manual to be used by County Superintendent of Schools staff to refer families in need.
- Julian Weaver referred everyone to the Resource book that was developed from a variety of subcommittee members and thanked all of those members whom participated over the long process.
- Julian also mentioned a big thank you to go to his secretary Barbara Rutledge for all her hard work and dedication to this project.

- **Action:** Julian Weaver asked the group to review the resource book and get all changes to him by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Action:** The final updated resource book will be presented to the Policy Council for approval on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Action:** Kent suggested this subcommittee meet twice a year to focus on updates and necessary revisions to this resource book.
- **Action:** The Resource book will be distributed: in hard copy to school personnel; a cd could be created; and possibly placing it on the county Superintendent of Schools web page and the County Government web page.

#### 4.3 AB 490

- After a lengthy discussion at the previous Policy Council meeting it was determined to have Julian Weaver present information on the AB490.
- Julian introduced Bernadette Pinchback a Manager for the Foster Youth Services, School Linked Programs and Partnerships.
- Julian and Bernadette referred everyone to the AB 490 Overview packet they distributed.
- AB 490 is directly related to educational outcomes for foster youth.
- There remains a large number of foster youth whom do not graduate from high school and need additional services.
- There are basic education codes that encourage all agencies to work together for the best educational opportunities for foster youth.
- The goal is to keep the foster youth in the same school if possible, especially until the school year ends.
- The school districts do not have any funds for transportation, if the youth must be transported a great distance to his/her school of origin.
- The ICPC (InterCounty Placement Compact) group comprising of professionals from many different departments meet and discuss the best placement available for the foster youth with consideration of the health and education passport.
- The courses the foster youth take are now transferable from high school to high school.
- **Action:** Julian agreed to share with this group a copy of the Child Welfare and Attendance staff from the 33 districts.

- The laws have changed stating that children must be enrolled in school immediately and not kept out of school waiting for various records.
- The process is now being worked on, where placement workers communicate to school staff, when children are moved to another location.
- Bernadette stated that foster youth are kept in public schools whenever possible, so that they can participate in various sports, etc.
- A question was asked, what is the penalty if the school does not follow the AB 490, answer the school may be issued an injunction.
- There was a lengthy discussion about how long is too long for a child to ride on a bus back to the school of origin.
- It was mentioned that children placed in large facilities are exempt from the school codes.
- **Action: Julian will bring this group more information as this law rolls out.**
- **Action: Julian stated if there are problems with school districts the three best liaisons to contact are: East Valley is Bernadette Pinchback; Sherman Garnett covers the entire county; and Shaun Zigler for the desert.**
- Julian stated his staff is willing to come and speak to agencies that work with foster youth to explain how AB 490 works in relationship to the foster youth and education.

Honorable Rex Victor had to leave so Carol Anselmi chaired the rest of the meeting.

## 5.0 Discussion/Action Items

### 5.1 Discussion requested regarding the creation of a Transitional Age Youth Residential Treatment Program

- Kent Paxton referred everyone to 5.1 in his/her packet for further details about the Transitional Age Youth Residential Treatment Program.
- As a result of the death of Jerry D. a group was formed to discuss getting a waiver from the state licensing for a group home to house 16 to 21 year olds with developmental delays and behaviors.
- The model of the group home would be similar to the one-formed years ago as an RCL (Rate Classification Level) 12.
- The payment for RCL 12 is \$1,536 per month per child up to the age of 18.

- The child transitioning to adulthood from 18 to 21 could qualify for SSI at \$850 a month per child, so additional funding sources will be needed.
- Approval was not asked for today, just to move the concept along to look at other funding sources such as EPST Medi-Cal, etc.
- It was asked to make this concept included in the annual Group Home Needs Assessment.
- **Action: Kent will keep this group informed of the progress of this project.**

## 5.2 Discussion/Action requested to forward the following Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:

- Place a moratorium on any new group home beds in the County of San Bernardino
- Create an annual interagency RFP for specialized treatment beds based on recommendations from the annual HSS Group Home Needs Assessment
- Give existing providers in the County priority to contract for needed specialty beds
- Provide better oversight and support of group home programs (i.e., standardized criteria for quality, oversight by County Staff)
- Kent Paxton referred everyone to 5.2 in his/her packet for further details.
- Kent mentioned that he gets on an average of 2 to 3 telephone calls per week from the public wanting to open up new group homes.
- Last year the group home needs survey conducted stated there were 1,000 group home beds in our county with 700 children placed in group homes.
- A suggestion was made to go to the Board for approval of specific types of beds needed, since there more than enough beds in the county.
- Kent mentioned it might be helpful if the County put out an RFP (Request For Proposal) each year for providers describing the specific type of placement beds needed by the Department of Children's Services, Department of Behavioral Health, and Probation Department.
- Possibly, the existing providers could be given a few extra points in the RFP process for handling our current needs.

- If the Board was to place a moratorium on letters of support for new group homes based on the current needs, it would limit the number of group homes in this county and would possibly help with the quality of group homes as well.
- **Action: Stephen Martinez mentioned the bill AB2149 this county is proposing that he and Kent will go speak to in Sacramento regarding group homes on April 20<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Action: After much discussion and a motion, it was decided Kent would develop a Board Agenda item for discussion about moratorium on group homes in San Bernardino County to go on the agenda in April.**

## **6.0 Other**

Kent reminded everyone of Children's Network 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Shine the Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at the Ontario Double Tree. Come out an honor Julian Weaver as the lifetime advocate.

## **7.0 Public Comment**

No comment

## **8.0 Next Meeting: April 28, 2004**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Tammy Williams, Children's Network  
Policy Council Recording Secretary**

**/tgw**